

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02229 081517Z

71

ACTION STR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-20 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

FEA-02 OMB-01 SWF-02 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-10 DRC-01 /245 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5088
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02229 081517Z

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT EC EFTA

SUBJ: EFTA AND EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN

REF: STATE 58646

1. WE MET INFORMALLY MARCH 28 WITH REPS OF EC COMMISSION, EFTA, GATT SEC, AND FOUR COUNTRIES WHO HAVE ASKED TO JOIN CONSULTATIONS ON RULES OF ORIGIN (JAPAN, CANADA, ROK, POLAND) AND PUT FORWARD US PROPOSED PARA 2 REFTL. EC AND EFTA REPS TOOK NOTE AND PROMISED GIVE US COORDINATED REACTION OF THEIR MEMBERS ASAP. THEY DID SO APRIL 5.

2. SWEDEN (COLLIANDER), SPEAKING FOR EFTA COUNTRIES, SAID WEEK STARTING APRIL 29 ACCEPTABLE BUT EFTA FELT STRONGLY CONSULTATIONS SHOULD START WITH AND INDEED FOCUS ON EC/EFTA RULES (WHICH SHOULD BE TREATED AS SEPARATE CONSULTATION EVEN IF HELD SAME WEEK). US IDEA OF STARTING WITH TWO FULL DAYS ON EFTA RULES AND ONLY BRIEF ORGANIZATION MEETING ON EC/EFTA RULES IS REGARDED BY EFTA COUNTRIES AS GIVING DISPROPORTIONATE ATTENTION TO EFTA RULES, WHICH COLLIANDER SAID EFTA COUNTRIES ARE POWERLESS TO CHANGE WITHOUT CHANGES IN EC/EFTA RULES. EFTA COUNTRIES ALSO FELT ADVANCE CIRCULATION OF US PAPER ON EFTA RULES MIGHT IMPLY US WOULD EXPECT EFTA TO RESPOND SUBSTANTIVELY AT FIRST MEETING WHEREAS EFTA STRONGLY PREFERS TO HEAR US COMPLAINT AND REACT AT LATER DATE BY WHICH TIME THEY HOPE MOST ATTENTION WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD EC/EFTA RULES. EC REP (LUYTEN) IMPLICITLY ACCEPTED THIS SCENARIO BY NON-OBJECTION TO EFTA PROPOSAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF SUGGESTION BELOW WHICH ALL PARTIES AGREED PUT TO THEIR AUTHORITIES FOR APPROVAL.

3. AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE WAYS TO GET CONSULTATIONS STARTED, US, EFTA AND EC REPS ALL AGREED TO RECOMMEND ONE-DAY MEETING APRIL 29 (OR ALTERNATIVELY MAY 2 OR 3 PROVIDED TEXTILE STATISTICS GROUP HAS FINISHED BY MAY 1) WITH MORNING SESSION DEVOTED TO FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND SCHEDULE FOR EC/EFTA RULES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 02229 081517Z

AFTERNOON SESSION ON EFTA RULES, WITH US TAKING LEAD IN ORAL PRESENTATION OF OUR CASE (BEING PREPARED TO CIRCULATE TEXT ON REQUEST AS EXPECTED). MEETING WILL ALSO FIX DATE FOR FURTHER MEETING.

4. EC ACQUIESCED IN OUR PROPOSAL HOLD MEETING AT GATT HQ (BOCAGE) ALTHOUGH EC WOULD PREFER IT BE HELD AT EITHER US OR EC OFFICES. BOCAGE HAS BEEN RESERVED APRIL 29

(AND MAY 2 OR 3 AS ALTERNATIVE). GATT WILL PROVIDE INTERPRETERS. EC PROPOSED AND WE ACCEPTED THERE IS NO NEED FOR CHAIRMAN. EC OPPOSED GATT SEC (OTHER THAN INTERPRETERS) BEING PRESENT BUT WILLING CALL IN A SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL IF DISCUSSION TURNS TO POSSIBLE TASKS PARTIES AGREE SEC MIGHT BE ASKED TO UNDERTAKE. LUYTEN ATTRIBUTED OBJECTION MAINLY TO PRECEDENT IT WOULD CREATE FOR CONSULTATIONS ON ALL SORTS OF SUBJECTS WHICH LDCS MIGHT BE ENCOURAGED TO REQUEST. HE IMPLIED BUT DID NOT DIRECTLY STATE THAT EC LIKELY TO OBSERVE CONSULTATIONS ON EFTA RULES.

5. WE HAVE ADVISED CANADA, JAPAN, ROK, AND POLAND ABOUT PROPOSAL PARA 3 ABOVE. ALL ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEM IN ACCEPTING EITHER APRIL 29 OR MAY 2 FOR FIRST MEETING TO GET CONSULTATIONS STARTED. NONE OF THESE FOUR ANTICIPATE EXPERT ATTENDANCE FROM CAPITALS FOR THIS MEETING AND EXPECT US TO "CARRY THE BALL"; THEY ANTICIPATE SUBSTANTIVE INPUT ON THEIR PART AND POSSIBLE EXPERT PARTICIPATION AT FOLLOW-UP MEETING(S) TO BE ARRANGED APRIL 29.

6. INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED: CONFIRMATION US ACCEPTS PROPOSAL PARA 3 AND ARRANGEMENTS INDICATED PARA 4. MILLER

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